

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 47, 55, 62, 63, and 69.

Please amend claims 43, 44, 46, 48, 52, and 65.

Please add new claims 75-87.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a marine riser fixed to an ocean floor;

a housing disposed above a portion of the marine riser having a first housing opening and a second housing opening, both to communicate a drilling fluid received from the marine riser;

an inner member rotatable relative to the housing and having a passage through which a rotatable tubular may extend;

a pressure relief mechanism blocking one of the housing openings, the pressure relief mechanism adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure; and

a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the rotatable tubular.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, ~~further comprising: wherein the pressure relief mechanism comprises:~~

a rupture disk blocking one of the second housing opening openings to block fluid communication from the housing.

45. (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a marine riser positioned relative to a floor of an ocean;

an assembly removably disposed above a portion of the marine riser, the assembly comprising:

an inner member rotatable relative to the riser and having a passage through which a rotatable tubular may extend;

a radially outwardly disposed outer member;

a plurality of bearings interposed between the inner member and the radially outwardly disposed outer member; and

a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the tubular; and a housing, the assembly removably disposed within the housing.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a housing adapted for positioning above a portion of a marine riser, comprising:
a housing opening to discharge a drilling fluid received from the marine riser, and

an assembly removably positionable within the housing, comprising:

a sealing member, which rotates relative to the housing, and seals a tubular when the tubular is rotating; and
a pressure relief mechanism blocking the housing opening, the pressure relief mechanism adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, further comprising:

a flexible conduit for communicating the drilling fluid from the housing opening.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the housing permits substantially full bore access to the marine riser.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein a portion of the housing extends above an ocean surface.

52. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
positioning a marine riser relative to an ocean floor;
disposing a housing above a portion of the marine riser;
rotatably sealing a rotatable tubular to the housing; and
pressurizing a drilling fluid in the marine riser, comprising:
blocking an opening in the housing to block fluid communication from the
housing; and
clearing the opening at a predetermined pressure of the drilling fluid.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, disposing a housing above a portion of the marine riser comprising:
receiving the drilling fluid from the marine riser through an opening in the housing.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
discharging the drilling fluid from the opening; and
connecting a flexible conduit to the opening; and
discharging the drilling fluid through the flexible conduit.

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, rotatably sealing a rotatable tubular to the housing comprising:
rotating an inner member relative to the housing; and
sealing the inner member to the rotatable tubular.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, rotatably sealing a rotatable tubular to the housing comprising:
removably positioning an assembly within the housing, a portion of the assembly rotatable relative to the housing; and

sealing the rotatable tubular to the portion of the assembly.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
unsealing the rotatable tubular from the portion of the assembly; and
removing the assembly from the housing,
wherein the housing remains disposed above the portion of the marine riser.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, disposing a housing above a portion of the marine riser comprising:
positioning a portion of the housing above an ocean surface.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, positioning a marine riser relative to an ocean floor comprising:
fixing the marine riser to the ocean floor.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, further comprising:
a flexible conduit for communicating the drilling fluid from at least one of the housing openings.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Cancelled).

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the housing permits substantially full bore access to the marine riser.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, the pressure relief mechanism further comprising:

a connector, attachable to one of the housing openings, comprising:

a pressure relief mechanism blocking connector, the pressure relief mechanism blocking connector adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, the connector further comprising:
a valve, adapted to shut off fluid flow from the connector.
67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the valve is remotely operable.
68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, further comprising:
a flexible conduit, attachable to the connector, for communicating the drilling fluid from the marine riser.
69. (Cancelled).
70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, further comprising:
a connector, attachable to the housing opening, wherein the connector is erosion resistant.
71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, the connector comprising:
a valve for closing the connector.
72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the valve is remotely operable.
73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, the connector comprising:
a rupture disk configured to rupture at a predetermined fluid pressure.
74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49,
wherein a first end of the flexible conduit is attached to the housing, and

wherein the flexible conduit compensates for relative movement between the housing and a second end of the flexible conduit.

75. (New) A system, comprising:
- a marine riser fixed to an ocean floor;
 - a housing disposed above a portion of the marine riser having a first housing opening and a second housing opening, both to communicate a drilling fluid received from the marine riser;
 - an inner member rotatable relative to the housing and having a passage through which a rotatable tubular may extend;
 - a rupture disk blocking one of the housing openings to block fluid communication from the housing; and
 - a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the rotatable tubular.
76. (New) A system, comprising:
- a marine riser fixed to an ocean floor;
 - a housing disposed above a portion of the marine riser having a first housing opening and a second housing opening, both to communicate a drilling fluid received from the marine riser;
 - an inner member rotatable relative to the housing and having a passage through which a rotatable tubular may extend;
 - a connector, attachable to one of the housing openings, comprising:
 - a pressure relief mechanism blocking connector, the pressure relief mechanism blocking connector adapted to open at a predetermined fluid pressure;
 - and
 - a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the rotatable tubular.
77. (New) A system, comprising:
- a housing adapted for positioning above a portion of a marine riser, comprising:

a housing opening to discharge a drilling fluid received from the marine riser,

an assembly removably positionable within the housing, comprising:

 a sealing member, which rotates relative to the housing, and seals a tubular when the tubular is rotating; and

 an erosion resistant connector, attachable to the housing opening, comprising:

 a rupture disk configured to rupture at a predetermined fluid pressure.

78. (New) A system, comprising:

a housing adapted for positioning above a portion of a marine riser, comprising:

 a housing opening to discharge a drilling fluid received from the marine riser,

an assembly removably positionable within the housing, comprising:

 a sealing member, which rotates relative to the housing, and seals a tubular when the tubular is rotating,

 wherein a portion of the housing extends above an ocean surface,

 wherein the sealing member seals the tubular while drilling.

79. (New) A system adapted for use with a structure for drilling in a floor of an ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid when the structure is floating at a surface of the ocean, comprising:

 a riser fixed relative to the floor of the ocean;

 a housing disposed above a portion of said riser, wherein the housing has a first housing opening, and at least a portion of the housing is above the surface of the ocean;

 an assembly having an inner member, the inner member rotatable relative to the housing and having a passage through which the rotatable tubular may extend;

 a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the tubular; and

 the floating structure movable independent of the assembly when the tubular is rotating.

80. (New) A system adapted for use with a structure for drilling in a floor of an ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid when the structure is floating at a surface of the ocean, comprising:

a riser;

a housing disposed above a portion of said riser, the housing having a first housing opening;

an assembly having an inner member, the inner member rotatable relative to the housing and having a passage through which the rotatable tubular may extend;

a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the tubular; and

a flexible conduit for communicating the drilling fluid between the first housing opening and the structure whereby the structure is movable independent of the housing when the tubular is rotating.

81. (New) A method for sealing a riser while drilling in a floor of an ocean from a structure floating at a surface of the ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid, comprising the steps of:

positioning a housing above a portion of the riser;

allowing the floating structure to move independent of the housing;

communicating the drilling fluid between the housing and the structure;

compensating for relative movement of the structure and the housing during the step of communicating; and

attaching a flexible conduit between an opening of the housing and the floating structure for the step of compensating for relative movement of the structure and the housing.

82. (New) A method for sealing a riser while drilling in a floor of an ocean from a structure floating at a surface of the ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid, comprising the steps of:

positioning a housing above a portion of the riser;

allowing the floating structure to move independent of the housing;

communicating the drilling fluid between the riser and the structure;
compensating for relative movement of the structure and the housing during the step of communicating, and
using a flexible conduit in the step of communicating the drilling fluid.

83. (New) A method for sealing a riser while drilling in a floor of an ocean from a structure floating at a surface of the ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid, comprising the steps of:

removably inserting a rotatable seal in a portion of the riser;
allowing the floating structure to move independent of the riser;
communicating the drilling fluid between the riser and the structure, and
compensating for relative movement of the structure and the riser with a flexible conduit.

84. (New) A system adapted for use with a structure for drilling in a floor of an ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid when the structure is floating at a surface of the ocean, the system comprising:

a housing adapted for positioning above a portion of a riser, the housing having a first housing opening; and
an assembly removably positioned within said housing,
wherein the assembly has a sealing member, which rotates relative to the housing, and seals the tubular when the tubular is rotating, and,
wherein the floating structure moves independent of the assembly when the tubular is rotating.

85. (New) A system adapted for use with a structure for drilling in a floor of an ocean using a rotatable tubular and drilling fluid when the structure is floating at a surface of the ocean, the system comprising:

an assembly adapted for positioning above a portion of a riser, comprising an inner member, a radially outwardly disposed outer member, and a plurality of bearings,

wherein the inner member is rotatable relative to the riser and has a passage through which the rotatable tubular may extend, and,

wherein the plurality of bearings are interposed between the inner member and the radially outwardly disposed outer member;

a seal moving with the inner member to sealably engage the tubular,

wherein the floating structure is movable independent of the assembly when the tubular is rotating.

86. (New) Method for communicating drilling fluid from a casing fixed relative to an ocean floor to a structure floating at a surface of the ocean, comprising the steps of:

disposing a housing with the casing adjacent a first level of the floating structure;

allowing the floating structure to move independent of said housing;

moving the drilling fluid from the casing to a second level of the floating structure above said housing;

wherein a seal is within said housing, and

said seal seals with the tubular while the tubular is moved away from said first level and said second level.

87. (New) The system of claim 86, wherein a portion of the housing extends above the ocean surface.